POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

744

Saigon 1338

48

CONFIDENTIAL

Action
Info
EA
SS
GPM
SP
SC
SAH
I
H
SAL
IO
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
AID
RSR
RSC

VZCZCMJB028JIA659
RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 1338 1991320
ZNY CCCCC
R 181310Z JUL 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SDC STATE WASHDC
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1338

CONTROL: 15544
RECD: JULY 18, 1967
11:01 A.M.

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON FOR CIVILIAN CANDIDATES

1. LOCAL PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S JUNE 10 LUNCHEON FOR UNDER SECRETARY KATZENBACH AND CIVILAIN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. DUANG VAN SUNG'S CHINH LUAN DEVOTED A BANNER HEADLINE TO THE MEETING. IT RATED SLIGHTLY SMALLER HEADLINES IN CATHOLIC DAILY XAY DUNG AND VENERABLE HO GIAC'S CHANH DAO. CATHOLIC HOA BINH AND INDEPENDENT TU DO ALSO TREATED LUNCHEON AS FRONT PAGE NEWS. COVERAGE WAS NOT UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE. GENERAL INTERPRETATION OF NEWS STORIES WAS THAT LUNCHEON WAS INTENDED TO SHOW THAT US DOES NOT SUPPORT THE MILITARY SLATE. HOWEVER, CHINH LUAN

WENT FARTHER THAN MOST AND IMPLIED THAT WHILE LUNCHEON WAS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE U.S. NEUTRALITY, WE HAD AT FIRST SUPPORTED KY AND NOW IN FACT FAVOR THE THIEU-KY TICKET. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALL NOTED STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR BUNKER THAT U.S. HOPES FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTION AND THAT GENERAL MINH AFFAIR IS INTERNAL VIETNAMESE MATTER IN WHICH HE HAS NO INTENTION TO INTERVENE.

2. THERE WAS SOME EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF LUNCHEON, NOTABLY FROM CONG CHUNG AND SONG, BOTH OF WHICH ARE PRO-KY AND USUALLY PRO-AMERICAN PAPERS. SONG EDITORIAL DENOUNCED CANDIDATES FOR ATTENDING LUNCHEON, AND BEMOANED SUBSERVIENT SPIRIT WHICH PROMPTS OTHER CANDIDATES TO COMPLAIN ABOUT NOT HAVING BEEN INVITED. EDITORIALIST AVERRED THAT HE WOULD HAVE REJECTED INVITATION WITH REPLY THAT "ANTIONAL DIGNITY REQUIRES THAT WE BE CAREFUL LEST OUR COMPATRIOTS GET THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE SEEKING SUPPORT FROM FOREIGNERS." IF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS SOMETHING TO ASK A CANDIDATE HE SHOULD GO TO CANDIDATE'S HOUSE

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☑ RELEASE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 1338 C O N F I D E N T I A L
3. CONG CHUNG EDITORIAL WAS ENTITLED "TO INTERVENE OR NOT TO INTERVENE." IT QUESTIONED REAL PURPOSE OF LUNCHEON, AND WONDERED WHAT AMBASSADOR AND UNDER SECRETARY MAY HAVE SAID TO CANDIDATES. EDITORIAL ARGUED THAT LUNCHEON COMPROMISED U.S. STATEMENTS OF IMPARTIALITY, AND CONCLUDED THAT NO MORE SUCH MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD.

4. CONG CHUNG AND SONG EDITORIALS ARE NOTEWORTHY NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF PAPERS' PRO-KY BIAS, BUT BECAUSE OF INFLUENCE GENERAL LOAN REPORTEDLY EXERTS OVER THEM.
BUNKER
BT

DECLASSIFIED